

HOUSE RESOLUTION 109
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sister Mary Joseph for her meritorious service as Second Superior at the Dominican Monastery of St. Jude.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of this state should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary Tennesseans who through their enormous talents, richness of spirit, and faith in God continue to perform with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, Sister Mary Joseph is one such remarkable public servant, a voice of integrity in Marbury, Alabama religious circles; and

WHEREAS, a woman of robust faith, Sister Mary Joseph became Second Superior of the Monastery in June, 1992, and during her tenure has proven to be a valuable asset to the community; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian, Sister Mary Joseph is the second of four children born to James and Mamie Orr. She was christened Mary Louise. Her formative school years were spent with the Sisters at the Blessed Sacrament at St. Vincent dePaul Grammar School, where her brother, Leonard, and two sisters, Lois and Irene were also taught, and at Immaculate Mother High School; and

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WHEREAS, during her high school years Mary Louise worked at a number of part-time jobs. Most memorable are her days of service at St. Thomas Hospital. Ironically, her sister, Lois would undergo surgery and treatment for cancer and would die there; and

WHEREAS, all her life Mary Louise was certain she wanted to be a nun, but uncertain of the time and place to which God was leading her; and

WHEREAS, Mary Louise was delighted when she was offered a scholarship to attend Xavier University. It was there she heard about a new Dominican Monastery of Perpetual Rosary and Perpetual Adoration in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 1947, she was received as a postulant. Those were the pioneering days for the Monastery. The founding Mothers were “building” the souls as later they would build the new edifice; and

WHEREAS, by June, 1948, Mary Louise was allowed to receive the Holy Habit of St. Dominic. With it she was given her new name in religion, Sister Mary Joseph of the Infant Jesus, O.P. A year later Sister pronounced her vows for three years and in 1952, she officially bound herself to God by Vows UNTIL DEATH; and

WHEREAS, Sister Mary Joseph places the will of the Lord as her foremost teaching and leads by serving as a living example and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we pause to honor Sister Mary Joseph for her meritorious service at the Dominican Monastery of St. Jude in Marbury, Alabama, and to each of the communities where she

has spread God's Word, commend the fine example of morality and unswerving public service she provides for her fellow citizens, salute her Christian life of purpose and commitment to spirituality, and pray for her success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.